Private

Rome Palazzo Poli Dec 2
1862

My dear Marcia

I am grieved that the enormous debt
consequent on my dear wife death has so
prevented me for awhile lending you any
money, but this will not last long, for
I have able to reduce my expences down
to nearly half & shall be able thus to pay
the whole sum (near £300) by the Spring
There have been two "God send" enabling
me to do so, one the sale of a picture &
the other some money remaining saved
by the dear sufferer — My Son Walter
has been very active for me & also my
Son in law, indeed every one has tryed to
help me, under the dread full circumstance
of such a misfortune, which might have
crushed me, for if I had incurred a debt
which I could not pay, I might have
lost my place, but now I am glad to be
able to assure you that all is in the right
way

& by Easter every penny will be paid- at present I pay me £50 advanced me by the Norwich Office & at Easter me £60 left with me by a Countess Belli for which I pay 5 per cent- O' what an affliction I have had to undergo & even my poor dear wife was being killed by the consciousness of the great debts her illness was causing me her last sad letters tell me so, really when I look back upon it all I seem to hold my head up by miracle for on looking over the two notes I sent I still tremble as they were required to be paid at Marseilles at the instant- that £100 was paid when I arrived brought by P. Gale- this was £50 sent me by F. Office & 50£ the picture of Nelly O'Brien- I had previously sent £60 to my wife for the months of Jan & Feb.

But I won't dwell any longer on this so sad & as I have got well & cheerful at last as yet I have not been able to sell a picture here, but have good

hopes of me returning. My expences are daily
35s & 6 pence for my board & lodging all
my Servt £5 a month, Man Servant £2.10
& woman cook half that sum - You see
my Consulate requires a Secretary & Interpreter
Now I think all this account will please
you as I am sure you must be very anxious
about me.
I cannot how dreadfull our weathers
is, a continued deluge of rain has so spoild
the new rail way to Naples, that although
it is now opend it cannot be used as
there are near 30 miles some 5 feet in mud
& that the Carriages have to go small pace
or not at all - The whole country cut up
with rain, people ill with colds to a great
extent
On my birth day you will think of me
I know (7th Dec.) & how near I am to
the three score & ten" which I do not tell
as in my active life of Consul it might
tell against me for I have many envious